

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA NUMBER OR 105-96-18

BLM Office: South River Resource Area(RA), Roseburg District  
Proposed Action Title: Cow Creek Back Country Byway(BCB) Kiosks  
Location of Proposed Action: Cow Creek Special Recreation Management  
Area(SRMA), T. 30S., R. 6W., Sec. 28 and T. 32S., R. 6W., Sec. 32  
and 33, South River RA

### Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan:

This proposed action conforms with the Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) Dated June 1995.

### Need for Proposed Action:

The Cow Creek BCB was Dedicated in Sept. 1993. The ROD/RMP said that the Cow Creek corridor will be managed as a SRMA, with the Byway as a component. The Recreation 2000 Initiative Update, directs the BLM to assist other agencies and organizations in management for Recreation. Presidential Executive Order 12862 requires greater customer service and puts the demand on the BLM to respond with quality Recreation opportunities whenever feasible.

The BLM manual handbook H-8357-1 on Byways says in the objectives, we are to 'enhance visitor experiences and communicate multiple use management through interpretation'. To do this properly, we need to provide a safe and informative environment for the visitor. Entry kiosks are expected on all BCB's to provide information on the program, safety, participants, local attractions and points of interest on the Byway. To do this in a safe and inviting environment is paramount.

### Description of Proposed Action:

Each site will contain a parking area for six to eight vehicles and the national standard Back Country Byway kiosk, one for each the North and South bound travelers. Access will be safe and convenient. Plans for the sites have been drawn by the Landscape Architect to fit site surveys done by the area Engineering crew. Both sites are under private ownership and contact has been made with the current owners (Glenbrook Nickel and Superior Lumber). After appraisal, there is the potential for the two parcels to be donated to BLM. See the attached map for locations and legal descriptions.

The North site is now used as pasture land, as it appears to have been used for years. Three large pines and a few small apple trees grow between the county road and the fence. A two foot fill will cross the ditchline, and a one foot cut will be needed to access the area on which the parking lot and Kiosk will be placed. The fill that will be brought in for the parking and Kiosk site will be a maximum of five feet in total depth (at the deepest), to include surfacing. Total disturbed area will be approximately one half acre within a three quarter acre area. Any trees that are now on site will be saved and

protected during construction, except for one small apple tree that is within the access road prism.

The South Kiosk site is currently an area of log yard waste, composed of rock, gravel, and bark bits. Excavation would be for the purpose of removing sufficient material to allow compacted fill to form a satisfactory base for parking and Kiosk installation. Material removed to allow room for fill will be formed into a berm to mask the pond area and allow for some landscape type plantings. The final grade will be very close to the original grade of the current site. Approximately one half of the one acre site will be disturbed.

#### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

<u>CRITICAL ELEMENTS</u>	<u>POTENTIALLY AFFECTED</u>	
	NO	YES
Air Quality <u>WPA</u>	X	
ACECs <u>JSB</u>	X	
Cultural Resources <u>DKS</u>	X	
Farmlands, Prime/Unique <u>DEK</u>	X	
Floodplains <u>DEK</u>	X	
Native American Religious Concerns <u>DKS</u>	X	
T & E Species <u>PH AD</u> <u>Roli Espinosa</u>	X	
Waste, Hazardous/Solid <u>JSB</u>	X	
Wetland/Riparian Zones <u>DEK</u>	X	
Wild and Scenic Rivers <u>DM</u>	X	
Wilderness <u>DM</u>	X	

#### Description of Potential Impacts/Mitigation:

The Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) discussed concerns and no significant issues were determined. A common recommendation of the IDT was that disturbance should be limited to the area to be constructed in order to protect existing vegetation.

#### Special Status Species:

**Plants** There were no Special Status plant species found, but a Spring survey is planned, so implementation would not take place prior to the end of June 1997 (see Special Status Plant report, page 1).

**Fisheries** The proposed project would not directly impact the fisheries resource or aquatic habitat. The action is considered a "no effect" on the Umpqua River Cutthroat Trout. The action would not appreciably reduce the survival or recovery of the Coastal coho or West Coast steelhead and thus will not "jeopardize" the species (see Fisheries report, page 2).

**Wildlife** The project is considered a "no effect" on the northern spotted owl, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, marbled murrelet or Columbia white-tailed deer (see Wildlife report, page 2).

**Wildlife:** The Down Woody Debris(pine log) on the north site would be moved to the west or north side of the project area to protect it from removal and still make it available for wildlife use. Also, 'No Shooting' signs would be put up after construction to protect non-game species from harassment(see Wildlife report, page 2).

**Hydrology/Soils:** To minimize soil erosion, construction would be done during the dry season (page 1 of Fisheries report). To minimize sedimentation and negative hydrologic impacts due to channelized runoff, design would approximate natural drainage patterns (page 3 of Fisheries report). Bare soil areas would be seeded with native grasses after construction(see page 1 of Engineering, page 2 of Wildlife and page 1 of Special Status Plant reports).

**Recreation:** For safety reasons, visitors shall exit the County Road prism into the parking areas. Asphaltting of the parking lots will not only increase accessibility under ADA regulations, but most likely will decrease maintenance costs of regrading a gravel parking area after authorized and unauthorized use by motor vehicles(see Recreation report, page 1).

#### Agencies and Persons Notified/Consulted

Private landowners (public)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians  
Douglas County Planning Department  
Central Oregon Pacific Railroad  
Superior Veneer Co.  
Glenbrook Nickel Co.

#### Preparers

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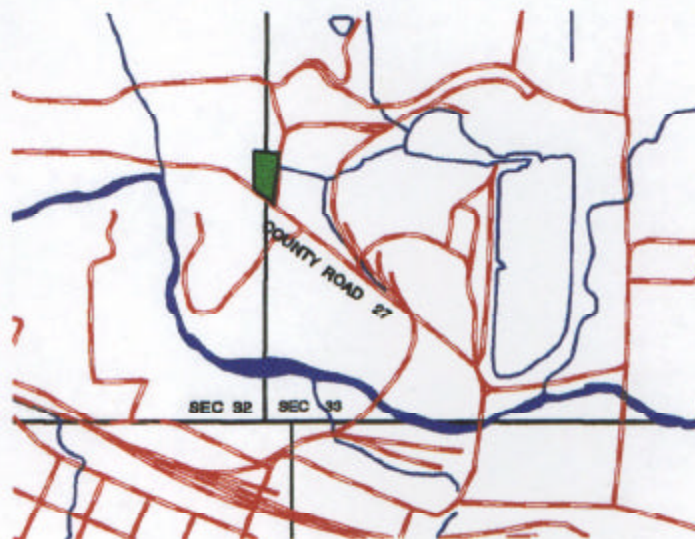
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## COW CREEK KIOSKS



T. 30S., R. 6W., SEC 28  
NORTH KIOSK



T. 32S., R. 6W., SEC. 32,33  
SOUTH KIOSK